and Kashmir, to counter anti-India propaganda, and would remain vigiliant on the support, financial or material, extended from Pakistan or from any other outside quarters in sustenance of activities directed against the unity and integrity of the country. Government constantly endeavour to project to the international community the situation in Jammu and Kashmir in its true perspective.

Indian offer of bilateral talks with Pakistan

426. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have given any offer for fresh bilateral talks with Pakistan in recent days;

(b) whether Government propose to reopen its mission office in Karachi;

(c) whether Government have inclined to discuss two Non-papers sent by Pakistan; if so, what reply Government have given to Pakistan;

(d) whether Pakistan has any condition for talks with India; and

(e) what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Government have repeatedly conveyed to Pakistan in the recent period our readiness to hold unconditional bilateral talks, to address outstanding issues.

(b) Government regret the unilateral decision of Pakistan asking for the closure of the Consulate General of India at Karachi. Government hope that Government of Pakistan will review its decision.

(c) to (e) Pakistan has raised at various times certain conditions and preconditions pertaining to the ground situation in J&K and the two non-papers handed over in January 1994 for the holding or talks with India. Setting of conditions and preconditions for such talks does not, in our view, constitute a positive approach.

Opening of Indian and Pakistani consulates

427. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have expressed willingness to resume bilateral discussion with Pakistan on the issues of Indian mission in Karachi and Pakistani Consulate in Bombay;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Pakistan Government on such move;

(c) whether the Pakistan Government have put conditions to discuss the issues; and

(d) if so, the details thereof; and the reaction of Government on this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Government have urged Pakistan to reconsider the unilateral closure of its Consulate in Bombay and its decision to close down the Indian Consulate General in Karachi. However, Pakistan has not yet responded favourably.

(c) and (d) Pakistan's unilateral decisions in this regard are based on misconceptions and propagandistic considerations. Government regret that the Pakistani decisions could adversely affect people-to-people contact between the two countries.